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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5317th meeting of the Security Council, held on 7 December 2005, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns the decision of the Government of Eritrea to request some members of United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) to leave the country within 10 days, effective as of 6 December 2005, which is inconsistent with the obligations of the Government of Eritrea to respect the exclusively international nature of the Peacekeeping Operation. In this regard, the Security Council unequivocally demands that Eritrea immediately reverse its decision without preconditions.

"The Security Council recalls that by resolution 1640 (2005), it demanded that the Government of Eritrea reverse all restrictions imposed on the operations of UNMEE.

"The Security Council will be consulting on how to respond to this completely unacceptable action by Eritrea."

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